

PAC GENERAL MEETING

March 24th, 2010

Meeting Commenced 7:00pm

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MINUTES

Approval of minutes from Jan 20, 2010 – moved Ann Einstein, seconded Zena Kwan

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Details on DPAC parent information night – March 30th
 - four speakers to choose from
 - registration information has been posted on the PAC website
- Speaker Series
 - Nandita is arranging speakers for a Drug and Alcohol Awareness workshop in May (how drugs get into the schools, available resources, how to notice signs of substance abuse in children, etc). Presentation information will be distributed as it becomes available.
 - Brock Tully is going to be at the school on April 12th for a family presentation. Details will be distributed this week.
 - Also in April we will have the last of our BCTF presentations – “Born to Buy”. This workshop will discuss the effects of consumerism on our kids.
- Volunteers to organize annual charity drive
 - Several parents have expressed interest in a charity drive, looking for someone to organize it.
 - If you are interested in organizing or being involved in a charity drive, please let Nandita know.

VOTE ON HOW THIS YEAR'S CARNIVAL FUNDS WILL BE SPENT

- Discussed allocation of funds to replace faucets and soap dispensers in the washrooms. Parents have noticed that the faucets are very difficult to use. This type of maintenance item is a school mandate. Expected to receive maintenance funds last year but all of the projects were cancelled. The Ministry will release some maintenance funds for this summer. Generally the school does not replace items unless they break. Mr. Chong cautioned the PAC against using funds for basic school repairs. Generally PAC funds should be going towards “extras” to supplement education.
- Discussed using PAC funds to hire additional playground monitors. We currently have recess supervision by teachers, and the District hires two CUPE workers as lunchtime supervisors. We cannot have volunteers to do the supervision. We could potentially hire a union employee through the school district as a lunchtime supervisor, but Mr. Chong advised that this could be costly.

- Based on feedback from teachers, principal and carnival committee the top five priorities for the carnival funds have been identified:
 - 1) Library updates – AV equipment and books
 - 2) Sports and/or music programs; lunchtime and school activities
 - 3) IT – update of computer lab equipment. The existing computers are over 10 years old.
 - 4) Front row sound systems – requested by teachers
 - Proposed to purchase two sound systems (Moved Ann, 2nd Denise) and additional funds will be allocated from the school - \$3500 for systems - PASSED
 - 5) Starting a contingency fund to replace the outdated playground equipment
- Voted to split remaining funding equally between IT equipment and sports/ music/ activities.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Spirit day is planned for April 30th, but due to a lack of volunteers may be cancelled. Many of our regular volunteers were over extended during the Olympics and are not able to commit to the event. Currently we are at least 20 presenters short. Mr. Chong will make a decision by the end of the month as to whether the event will proceed; time is needed to print the program, have the students select their programs and organize the session. There are potential presenters from Global TV, Brazilian Martial Arts, EA, etc. Volunteers are also needed to assist the speakers on the day of the event.
- \$200M budget for school district in Burnaby – over 90% is made up of teacher salaries. There is very limited flexibility in the budget unless jobs are cut. Class sizes impact the decision to cut staff, which is why split classes are necessary in many cases. The BC government has announced several changes to school district funding. This year teachers are entitled to a 2% salary increase, which historically has not been funded by the province. Recent announcements have indicated that the government will now provide funds to cover salary increases. Schools have also been exempted from HST. Instead of an \$8-10M deficit, the district is now looking at ~\$5.5M deficit. The district will be meeting with the DPAC on Monday to go over the proposed cuts, which will total ~\$7-8M. This list may be pared down based on parent and union feedback, but the goal is to cover the projected deficit. Look for public meetings on the budget in local papers. This year most of the cuts apply to secondary schools. Please talk to our DPAC reps if you have any questions or concerns.
- Per student government contributions have increased by less than \$100 per student, most of which will be consumed by inflation. The impact of this per student contribution will be minimal.
- Some of the allocated Government funding will go towards all day Kindergarten starting in 2010. Seaforth will not be one of the schools going to all day K this year, but we still expect that it will be implemented in 2011.
- Discussed possibilities for running alternative shifts for elementary students. Because there are vacancies in Burnaby schools, there is currently no political will or parent appetite to do this. Alternative schedules are not required or being considered at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- \$7209.28 general account, \$25,914 in the gaming account
- popcorn machine now paid off – popcorn punch cards are ready and will go out to the classes on Monday or Tuesday next week
- Leave e-mail address if you would like a copy of the budget statement.
- Gaming funds have been restored for future school years starting in the 2010/2011 school year.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

DPAC report

- no update

Hot Lunch Committee

- no update

Carnival Committee

- A carnival package will be distributed to parents on May 3rd, including volunteer forms. All proceeds from the carnival will directly benefit the kids and the school and it is a great opportunity for parents to help out.
- Planning games, inflatables, BBQ... should be lots of fun!

Traffic & Safety Committee

- See 'New Business' section below for update

CPF Report – Siva Ramesh

- Nothing to report; Carnival was successful

Health & Nutrition Committee

- no update

Disaster Preparedness Committee

- no update

NEW BUSINESS

- Traffic and Safety
 - One traffic volunteer is no longer available – another volunteer for Wed, Thu or Fri would be appreciated.
 - There have been issues lately with verbal abuse against the traffic guards
 - The school district allocates some funds for traffic guards in high traffic areas, but Seaford is not eligible. Our guards are all volunteers and deserve our support and appreciation.

GUEST SPEAKER – RITA BAGHAMIAN

- Discussed strategies for how to talk to kids about money
- Reviewed the Vancity deposit program available at the school

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm